(ग) अल्मोड़ा दूरसंचार डिवीजन में स्विचिंग और संचारण उपस्कर के उन्नयन हेतु लगातार मॉनिटरिंग की जा रही है तथा योजना बनाई गई है।

Criteria for Upgrading of Telecom System

3341. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed in upgrading the telecom system in the country; and

(b) the reasons for choosing Hassan for this purpose on a priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Upgradation with expansion of telephone system is based on demand for telephone connections and waiting list. Upgradation is also done for obsolescence of existing technology and life expiry of existing system.

(b) The above criteria is applicable for all the places in the country including Hassan.

Alternate Technology for Rural Telecommunication

3342. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to the conclusion that Multi Access Rural Radio System (MARR) is not the right technology to provide village public telephones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of alternate technology proposed to be adopted for rural telecommunications?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) At present, the Multi Access Rural Radio Technology is still suitable for providing VPYs in rural areas.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Irregularities Committed in the Department of Posts

3343. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has come under criticism of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the massive irregularities in the purchase of equipments like the telecommunications; and

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities that were committed in the purchase of equipments and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The Department has received the report of the CAG during the year 1997 in which the CAG has made certain observations in the review conducted on the satellite Money Order Service and Multipurpose counter machines. The report is under examination for furnishing action taken notes.

"Telephone Bill Ne Pak Agenton Kee Sakriyata Kee Pol Kholee"

3344. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Telephone Bill ne pak agenton kee sakriyata kee pol kholee" which appeared in the Rashtriya Sahara dated the 28th March, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reaction of Government; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check and stop these activities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes Sir.